

Sport

Nat'l chess

Sports Reporter

Defending national champion Rezaul Karim Sattar registered his second successive victory in the ongoing nineteenth national chess championship when he beat Ziaul Qader Tuhin in the third round at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Refaat, playing with black pieces in a game of French Defence, forced his opponent to resign on the 32nd move.

Mahbub Ali Ferdousi of Feni maintained his winning spree as he recorded his third consecutive win over Kalimullah Khan of Ansara. Mahbub played with black in Queen's Indian Defence to win after 52 moves. Abdul Khaleque of Dhaka Metropolis resigned on the 35th move against Niyamul Haq Niru of Ansara.

Saifuddin Laboo of BTMC took care of Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Ansara in 45 moves in a game of Ruy Lopez.

Rezaul Karim of Biman and ANM Ruhul Kuddus of Dhaka Metropolis defeated Ali Amjad Mintu and Abul Kashem Bhuyan respectively.

Omar Khaled of Chittagong beat Abdullah-Al-Rakib of Dhaka Metropolis after just 16 moves. The match was played in Sicilian Defence.

The match between Rani Hamid of Biman and Rafiqul Islam of Chittagong was in progress when the report was filed.

BGIC basketball

Sports Reporter

Rising Force and Rangers club registered victories in their respective BGIC Second Division basketball league matches at the open basketball court adjacent to the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Rising Force overwhelmed Victoria Sporting club 76-35 after leading the first half 38-7.

Mujib caged 40 points for the winners while Manwar scored 12.

Jami and Hafiz scored 20 and 10 points respectively for the losers.

In the other match of the day Rangers club routed Young Angels 77-35.

Rangers Club who already clinched the runners-up position in the league, led the first half 38-10.

Sulon was the topscorer for the winners with 36 points while Rashid caged 14.

For the losers Zahedi scored 10 points.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Dipali Jubo Sangha confirmed their berth in next year's Third Division football league when they edged out KR Boys 4-3 in the tie-breaker to move into the final of the Janata Bank Pioneer football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The scheduled time of the keenly contested second semi-final match ended in a goalless draw.

Masum, Tarek, Zamal and Bobby netted for the winners in the penalty shoot-out while Saiful, Rajanikanta and Babu scored for the losers.

The final between Dipali Jubo Sangha and Mottihel T&T Club will be one of mere academic interest as both teams have earned promotion to next year's Division Three league.

Finns blow out Austria's hopes

URKU, Finland, May 14: Underdogs Finland virtually extinguished Austria's World Cup hopes with a surprise 3-1 win on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Finland's first European Group Six win left France, Bulgaria and Sweden comfortably clear in the fight for the two qualifying places.

Austria's defence was torn wide open by the hard-running Finns, led by midfielder Jari Kitzmanen, who engineered two of the goals.

Mika-matti Paatelianen opened the scoring in the 17th minute from a delicate Litmanes cross. Goalkeeper Bernhard Wohlfahrt came out too late.

Three minutes later Marko Rajamaki struck from close range with Austria caught flat-footed.

Finland maintained their momentum throughout the first half and took an unassailable 3-0 lead soon after the break through Ari Hjelm. A brilliant pass by Litmanes and less-than-agile footwork by Austrian central defenders Michael Stretter and Michael Zisser left Hjelm free to beat Wohlfahrt.

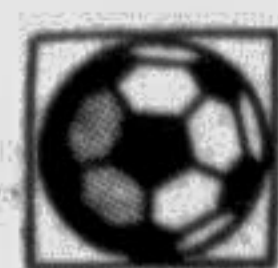
Austria gradually took control in midfield and pressed the home team back, but were unable to seriously disrupt the disciplined Finnish defence.

Zisser headed home for Austria a minute from time.

The result left Austria fourth in the six-team group, six points behind leaders France and two adrift of third-placed Sweden who have a game in hand.

Rahmatganj in final round

Sports Reporter



Angur scored the first hat-trick of the DMFA Cup football tournament as Rahmatganj Muslim Frigate club booked the first of the four places for the qualifiers in the eight-team final round when they emphatically

of the round robin leg on May 18, in Group One. The other group features Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union. The top two teams from each group advance to the last four.

The winners dominated the match from the moment the referee blew the whistle, leaving

minutes into the game after Ranjan, running along the right flank, floated a perfect cross in for the striker, who pushed the ball home without a second thought (1-0).

An early goal egged the winners on and they stepped up the pressure on the Pioneer defence for more goals. The second goal came in the 34th minute when Ranjan placed another measured cross for Angoor to flick in (2-0).

In the second half, however, the Pioneer booters displayed determination and made the Rahmatganj offence toil. But the victors were not to be denied and neither was Angoor.

Angoor completed his treble with a solo effort. In the 23rd minute Angoor dribbled past two defenders before unleashing an angular drive which left the Pioneer goalkeeper with no chances (3-0).

Javed completed the tally eleven minutes later with a powerful drive after being set free with a clean pass from an indirect free-kick (4-0).

Rest of the match was somewhat uneventful as the winners decided not to press any more and the vanquished crowded the penalty area to make sure that they did not concede any more goals.

In the other match of the day, Agrani Bank edged out Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha 1-0 in Group B semi-final to set up a final clash with Dhaka Wanderers on May 17.

The match, played in the afternoon, was one of those drab affairs where players toil in vain to establish total dominance in the midfield resulting a number of midfield melees. But amid this chaotic moves and counter moves, Agrani Bank were seemingly the better side.

The winners got the all-important goal in the 20th minute of the first half when Bachchu headed home from a free-kick (1-0).

Four minutes later, Bakhtiar almost doubled the margin with a fierce drive but, thanks to the goalkeeper, Bima survived.

TODAY'S MATCH
Victoria Sporting Club vs Lalmata Club (6 pm)



Action from yesterday's DMFA Cup football tournament match between Agrani Bank and Sadharan Bima at the Dhaka Stadium. Agrani Bank beat Sadharan Bima by a solitary goal.

debeated Pioneer Coaching Eleven 4-0 in the Group A final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Rahmatganj join Abahani Krira Chakra and Arambagh Krira Sangstha, who they will take on in the inaugural match

ing little, if not no space for the Pioneer selection, who made a flying start with a 4-1 thrashing of Adamjee Sports Club in the tournament opener on May 10.

Rahmatganj opened the account through Angoor 14

J-League begins today with éclat



TOKYO, May 14: Japan's new professional soccer league opens on Saturday to the crackle of fireworks and the flash of laser beams, fuelled by millions of dollars from some of the world's richest companies, reports Reuter.

A nationwide television audience and a sell-out crowd of 60,000 including Brazilian soccer superstar Pele will watch the display before the opening game between Yomiuri Nippon and Yokohama Marinos.

On Sunday, four games will be played, including a clash between Grampus Eight and Kashima Antlers, the new clubs on former England striker Gary Lineker and Brazil's Zico.

Local government built the Antlers new 8.2 billion yen (73.2 million dollars) stadium. While soccer worldwide struggles with recession and debts, the 10 clubs in Japan's new league are flush.

They have splashed out millions of dollars to buy foreign players to increase spectator interest and raise the standard of local teams.

As well as Zico and Lineker, the league boasts Pierre Littbarski of Germany's 1990 World Cup team, ex-Argentine international Ramon Diaz and David Bisconti, and former Brazilian international Edu.

The average stadium capacity of the 10 clubs is only 15,000, and they each expect to lose one billion yen (8.9 million dollars) a year in the short term. But thanks to strong support from the big firms they are confident of carrying the losses.

The five games this weekend are sold out, and all will be televised. Interest has been fuelled by intensive promotion, sale of J-League goods and the success of Japan's team in reaching the second round of the Asian qualifying group for the World Cup finals in 1994.

Twenty-four per cent of Kawabuchi said the league would allow a maximum of five overseas players per team. But only three could play in any one game.

He said the new league could not be compared with the ill-fated US soccer league in the 1970s, which had several star imports such as Pele. "That league was geared to profit and in the end there was no active promotion or nurturing promising American players," he said. "We shall not be making the same mistake. The J-League comprises a great majority of good home-grown Japanese players who have moved up from high school and semi-amateur leagues."

Asked about a possible clash with baseball, Japan's most popular spectator sport, Kawabuchi said: "The J-League has been born from a growing interest from the younger generation. They want something more after the school and company-sponsored football teams."

The 10 teams play each other twice in the first half of the league, which runs until July 14. The second half will be staged between late July and mid-November.

The winning club in each of the two stages will earn 50 million yen (446,000 US dollar). The winners of the two stages will then meet in the first league championship with a prize of 10 million yen (89,200 US dollar).

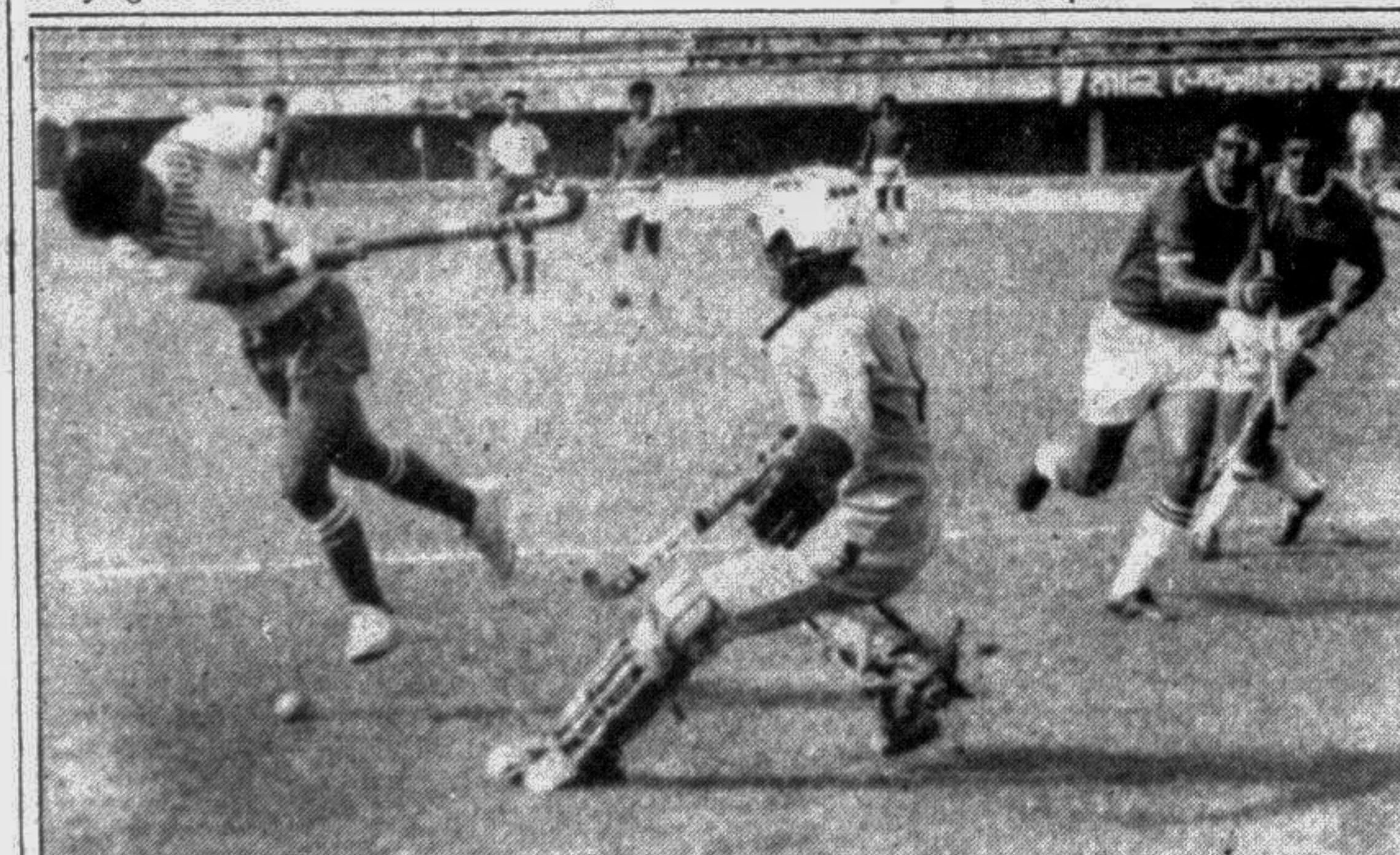
The league plans to increase the number of teams, with two more joining probably next year.

The current 10 teams are all from Honshu, Japan's main island, and include none from the capital.

League chairman Saburo



GARY LINEKER television viewers watched Japan's crucial 2-0 win over United Arab Emirates in Tokyo on April 18 in Prime Evening Time, a record for a soccer game.



Scene from yesterday's Metropolis Green Delta First Division hockey league match between Usha Krira Chakra and Police Athletic Club at the Hockey Stadium. Usha won the match by four goals to nil. —Star photo

Imran critical of Dicky Bird

Sports Reporter

KARACHI, May 14: Former skipper of Pakistan's World Cup winning cricket team, Imran Khan, has criticised English umpire Dicky Bird over decisions which went against Pakistan during the Caribbean tour, reports AFP.

"His judgement at times was quite faulty," the famous all-rounder was quoted by the official Association Press of Pakistan today.

Pakistan lost the Test series 2-0 and drew a one-day international against the West Indies.

Imran attributed Test defeats to a lack of motivation.

DeFreitas' apt riposte

LONDON, May 14: Lancashire paceman Phil DeFreitas, snubbed by the England selectors for the three one-day Texaco Trophy matches against Australia, delivered the perfect riposte with seven for 76 against Somerset at Taunton on Thursday, reports Reuter.

DeFreitas, who at one stage took three wickets in 10 deliveries without conceding a run, was mainly instrumental in bowling Somerset out for 195 in 55.3 overs after the home side had opted to bat first.

Somerset would have fared much worse but for England new boy Mark Lathwell who held DeFreitas at bay with a sparkling 71.

Lancashire were on 142 for four when bad light ended the play.

Former West Indian captain Viv Richards rolled back the years against Derbyshire at Derby, hammering a robust 86 out of a Glamorgan total of 320.

Richards pulled Glamorgan out of trouble at 166 for six by launching a lethal assault on England fast bowler Devon Malcolm, who was dispatched for eight fours and a six before finally forcing the 41-year-old to miscue a pull.

Derbyshire lost captain Kim Barnett cheaply before reaching 58 for one in reply at the close.

Yorkshire's former Northants' seamer Mark Robinson continued his impressive start to the season by claiming five for 45, including England's Gramme Hick and Phillip Weston in the space of four deliveries, as Worcestershire struggled to 185 for seven at Bradford.

Hampshire's Paul Terry hit an unbeaten 82 as Hampshire reached 192 for one after being put in to bat by Durham in a rain-curtailled day at Stockton.

Durham's agony was compounded, first, by the sight of West Indian fast bowler Anderson Cummins limping off the field with a thigh strain and then by David Gower, who cracked a sparkling 32 not out which included five fours of labouring Ian Botham.

Maradona again in trouble

SEVILLE, Spain, May 14: Diego Maradona was arrested for driving his Porsche Carrera at 150 kilometres an hour on his way to training Thursday, police said, reports AFP.

The Argentine star spent 15 minutes being questioned by the police before being released. The car was impounded.

Leaving the station, Maradona stopped briefly to sign autographs but made no comment.

Ajax, Usha win

Sports Reporter

Usha Krira Chakra and Ajax Sports Club registered facile wins in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. In the first match of the day, Independence Day hockey champions Usha KC posted a 3-0 triumph over Police Athletic Club after leading the first half 1-0.

Khwaza Irteza Qader Guddu opened the account for the winners, sounding the Police AC board from close in the 28th minute from penalty corner (1-0).

Another penalty corner in the 48th minute opened the way for Rabiuddin Ahmed to slam home (2-0).

Three minutes later Qamrul Islam Kismat completed the tally with a field goal (3-0).

In the other match of the day, Ajax raced away with a 4-0 victory against Azad Sporting Club after enjoying a 2-0 first-half lead.

Ajax were given the lead by Khwaza Wais who drove the ball into the Azad net from a well-synchronised 12th minute offensive (1-0).

M Javed doubled the margin in the 26th minute when he scored a field goal (2-0).

Five minutes into the second half Khwaza Ritzwan got the third for the winners from a penalty corner (3-0).

Salisbury's superlative showing



HOVE, England, May 14: Ian Salisbury displayed his developing all-round talents as Sussex made

Australia toil at Hove on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The England leg-spinner stroked his way to 50 after 'Alan Wells had earlier led the way with a fine 93 Sussex totalled 353 all out.

Despite being left out of the England one-day international squad, the 22-year-old Salisbury could still pay a leading part in this summer's Test series — and his batting skills could help balance England's side.

He faced only 74 balls, hitting 10 fours and making most of his runs after Australia took the second new ball.

Wells, the 31-year-old Sussex captain, is one of the most underrated batsmen in English cricket and has never played representative cricket — except on the ill-fated rebel England tour of South Africa in 1990 under Mike Gatting.

At the time Wells explained his decision by outlining his frustration at being constantly ignored by the England selectors.

And since his ban ended, Wells, has had to watch as fellow rebels Gatting, John Emburey and Paul Jarvis have won instant recalls.

He batted four hours, facing 195 balls and striking 10 boundaries before slicing a

square drive at Craig McDermott and being well held low down at backward point.

He had been joined by the obdurate Keith Greenfield in a third-wicket stand of 133, and later put on 51 with the accomplished Salisbury.

Strike bowler McDermott took a wicket with both the first and second new ball and showed more fire and rhythm

than when he was hit for 76 from 14 overs — and had an on field row with his captain Allan border — during the last match against Somerset.

Merv Hughes, looking overweight after his recent injury lay-off, toiled manfully up the hill and was rewarded with two wickets.

Support seamers Brendon Julian and Paul Reiffel, bidding for perhaps one place in the side for the one-day interna-

tionals, had mixed fortunes. Julian ended up with five for 63 in a steady performance but Reiffel had some poor luck, once seeing Wells edge him through the slips for four just before his dismissal.

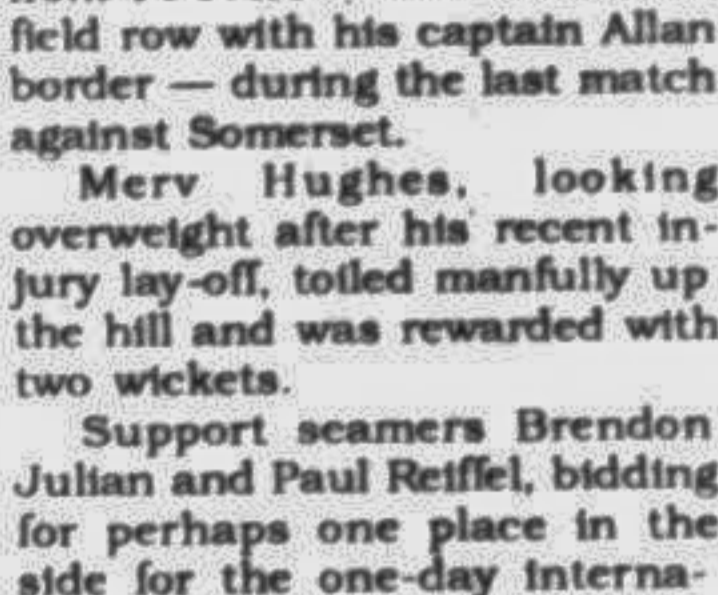
SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the three-day cricket match between Sussex and Australia on Thursday:

SUSSEX: First innings
N Leanham c Healy b McDermott 11
W Atkey c Hayden b Julian 33
K Greenfield c Border b Julian 55
A Wells c Martyn b McDermott 93
M Speight lbw b Julian 0
C Wells c Hayden b Hughes 6
P Moores c Healy b Hughes 22
I Salisbury c Reiffel b Julian 59
T Pigott c Reiffel b Julian 5
A Jones b Waugh 20
E Giddings not out 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-12, w-3, nb-30) 49
Total: 353
Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-76; 3-209; 4-209; 5-220; 6-244; 7-295; 8-322; 9-350.

Bowling: O M R W
McDermott 23 3 89 2
Hughes 16 3 58 2
Reiffel 21 2 58 0
Julian 22 5 63 5
May 17 3 53 0
Waugh 2.1 0 16 1

AUSTRALIA: M Slater, M Hayden, D Martyn, S Waugh, A Border, I Healy, B Julian, M Hughes, P Reiffel, T May, C McDermott.



IAN SALISBURY

South Korea surge ahead



BEIRUT, May 14: South Korea went top of World Cup Asian qualifying Group D with a 3-0 win over India on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The victory puts the group favourites ahead of Hong Kong on goal difference after both have played three matches.

But South Korea turned in an unimpressive performance against an Indian team who rarely ventured into their opponents' half.

South Korea's first goal came from a 19th minute penalty converted by defender Hong Myung-Bo after a foul by Sathyan Vattabrambath on Seo Jongwon.

The Koreans dominated almost entirely but had to wait until 20 minutes from time for their second goal when Choi Moon-Sik scored at the near post from close range.

Choi could have added to his tally 11 minutes later, but his fiercely struck shot hit the upright and bounced away to safety.

Korea saved the best for last with Ha Seok-Ju scoring from a spectacular volley in the last

minute.

India had just two shots on goal in the whole match, both in the first half and both squandered by Bhupinder Thakur, who was later substituted.

But the Indians earned the sympathy of the Lebanese crowd at the Bourj Hammoud Stadium for their pucky defence.

Winless Lebanon and Bahrain battled to a goalless draw in their Group D match in Beirut to leave both well behind South Korea and Hong Kong.

Bahrain had most of the ball during the match but failed to transform their superiority into goals and had very few clear cut chances.

Lebanon, urged on by a partisan crowd of 13,000 by relentless counter attacks and strikers Fadi Alouch and Wael Nazha both missed chances.

Lebanon have now completed their group matches and the first leg will be completed on Saturday with a top-of-the-table clash between South Korea and Hong Kong while Bahrain play India.

Lebanon's coach Berjaoui said he was not disappointed

his team had not won a single game on home soil but added: "We still hope to improve in the second round of matches in South Korea next month."

Venables loses his job

LONDON, May 14: Former Barcelona soccer coach Terry Venables was fired as chief executive of Tottenham Hotspur Friday, reports AP.

After a two-hour meeting of the north London club's directors, Tottenham issued a brief statement which read: "A resolution terminating Mr Terry Venables' contract as chief executive of Tottenham Hotspur PLC was passed at a Board meeting of the company attended by all directors this morning."

Venables, who was Tottenham manager from 1987-91 before he was appointed managing director, emerged a few minutes after the announcement.

"The Board has voted to dismiss me, and I have been and am talking to solicitors," he said. "I am advised that's all I can say at the moment."

Sydney greets Samaranch soberly



SYDNEY, May 14: Sydney laid on a low-key welcome for Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch on Friday, in sharp contrast to his lavish reception in Beijing, Australia's main rival in the bid for the 2000 Olympics, reports Reuter.

The world's most powerful sports administrator arrived for a three-day inspection visit after a similar trip this month to Beijing where he was accorded royal treatment.

"We were simply complying with his wishes," a spokesman for the Sydney bid said.

Samaranch and his daughter Maria Teresa were welcomed at Sydney's airport by officials led by Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates.

Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), later received a detailed briefing on Sydney's bid for the Games before an official reception hosted by the Premier of New South Wales, John Fahy.

Samaranch had specifically asked Australian officials not to go overboard in their treat-

ment during his visit.

Sydney and Beijing are regarded as the frontrunners in the bid for the 2000 Olympics, which will be decided by 91 IOC delegates in Monte Carlo on September 23. Manchester, Berlin, Istanbul and Brasilia are the other candidates.

Australia's IOC member Phil Coles, who was in China with Samaranch, said he believed Sydney's facilities were superior to Beijing's but was concerned that China held the political advantage.

"I've been involved in Sydney's bid for a long time and in most cases, if not all of them, we are superior. That's a fact," Coles told reporters.

Samaranch will inspect the planned main site for the Games in the city's west on Saturday before a lunch with Prime Minister Paul Keating.

While in Beijing, Samaranch gave no indication whether China's extravagant reception would boost Beijing's bid.

"The six candidate (cities) are on the same starting line," Samaranch told a news conference. "All the six bidders have the same opportunities."

Samaranch and other IOC members were feted in

Shanghai at the opening ceremony of East Asian Games, which featured more than 11,000 dancers, singers and acrobatics team members.

In March IOC delegates were hailed as "gods" when they visited China's capital and Samaranch himself is regularly lauded as a world statesman by China's official press.

Communist Beijing sees the Games as a chance to cast off the shadow of its 1989 Tiananmen Square political crackdown and build a more open image. It has pulled out all the stops in its propaganda campaign to win the rights.

Baishakhi h'ball

Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club crushed Mansoor Sporting Club 22-4 in the opening match of the Baishakhi handball championship at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

The winners led the first half 12-3.

Abul Hossain netted eight times for the winners followed by Badshah and Liton who scored five and four goals respectively.



Action from the inaugural match of the Baishakhi handball tournament between Victoria Sporting Club and Mansoor Sporting Club at the handball court yesterday. Victoria Sporting beat Mansoor Sporting 22-4. —Star photo